



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CW
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,973	09/29/2003	Allan J. Bobren	12560 (6365/88822)	2596
44986	7590	01/12/2005		EXAMINER
				PARADISO, JOHN ROGER
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Applicant No.	Applicant(s)
	10/673,973	BOBREN, ALLAN J.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John R Paradiso	3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SHIBAZAKI ET AL in view of WILLARD ET AL and EBERLE (US 2721645).

SHIBAZAKI ET AL discloses a strapping machine for positioning a strap around a load (A15) in which a chute (A4) is attached to a frame, a strap is guided around the chute and then the leading edge is welded to a second area of the strap by means of a strapping head (A12), and the strap is tightened and then sealed to itself.

SHIBAZAKI ET AL does not disclose the use of roller sets for infeed or outfeed conveyors.

WILLARD ET AL discloses a banding machine in which an infeed roller set conveys a package (18) to a strapping head (16) and an outfeed roller set (26) conveys the banded package away from the strapping head.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the infeed and/or outfeed roller set of WILLARD ET AL to the invention of SHIBAZAKI ET AL in order to reduce the amount of work done by the machine operator in preparing packages for banding.

The combination of SHIBAZAKI ET AL and WILLARD ET AL does not disclose the infeed and/or outfeed roller set as being pivotable.

EBERLE discloses a pivotable table (78) composed of rollers, the table being adjustable by pivoting it up or down around a pivot point (24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the input and/or output conveyors of the combination of SHIBAZAKI ET AL and WILLARD ET AL pivotable in order to make it easier for smaller or less muscular operators to bring things off or onto the conveyors with whatever angle is most convenient for them.

Regarding claims 2 and 4, the use of hook / slot connectors to join machinery pieces to a frame is well known in the art (and in everyday life - my own bedframe uses hooks on the connectors and slots on the frame to connect the bedframe together) and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use hook / slot connectors to join the roller sets to the frame of the combination of SHIBAZAKI ET AL and WILLARD ET AL in order to provide a secure and rapidly detachable method of connecting the machine parts so that it can be assembled / disassembled quickly for maintenance, etc.

Reference Citations

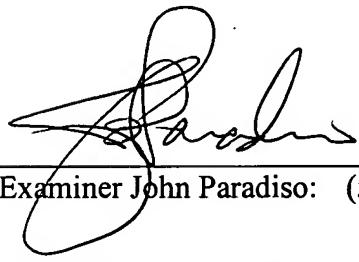
3. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure:
 - SCHERRER discloses a pivotable ramp on the end of a work surface.
 - WOELL discloses a roller table whose legs pivot.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Paradiso. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 9:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at the number listed below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Technology Center Receptionist.



Examiner John Paradiso: (571) 272-4466

January 10, 2005

Additional Phone Numbers:

Supervisor Rinaldi Rada: (571) 308-7135

Fax (Official): (703) 872-9306

Fax (Direct to Examiner) (571) 273-4466 (Drafts only)